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EXAMINER

YOUNG, DONALD G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,033

Applicant(s)

TAMURA, FUMIO

Examiner

Donald Young

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/27/2003
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
2. The Specification, Title and Claims are objected to because of the following informalities: Use of the terminology "voice recognition." The term "voice recognition" used in this instance is improper. This term nowadays is reserved for the recognizing of who is doing the speaking (class 704/246). The correct terminology needed for the claimed invention is "speech recognition." "Speech" or "word recognition" refers to the recognizing of what is actually being spoken (class 704/250). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. **Claims 1-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal

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translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. **Claims 1-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brotman *et al.* (USPN 6,236,967)

Regarding claim 1, Brotman *et al.* discloses an apparatus for speech recognition comprising:

- voice input means for inputting voice (speech data, column 6, lines 53-57);
- spot information memory means in which information relative to spots is stored (street names, street numbers and zip codes, Fig. 1, element 109 and column 4, line 31 thru column 5, line 19);

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- storage means for storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory means (recognized address, Fig. 1, element 110 and column 6, lines 3-9);
- computing means for acquiring similarities between the voice inputted from said voice input means and the object words stored in said storage means (matching, column 5, lines 64-67);
- recognition means for recognizing the voice corresponding to one of the object words from the similarities acquired by said computing means (Fig. 1, element 108 and column 4, lines 13-41);
- wherein when a plurality of object words are recognized (rhyme or sound alike) by said recognition means, a limiting word (range of street numbers) for distinguishing said plurality of object words sampled from said spot information storage means and stored as the object word in said storage means and the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized (column 5, lines 20-29 and column 6, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 2, Brotman et al. discloses an apparatus for speech recognition comprising:

- voice input means for inputting voice (speech data, column 6, lines 53-57);
- spot information memory means in which information relative to spots is stored (street names, street numbers and zip codes,

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Fig. 1, element 109 and column 4, line 31 thru column 5, line 19);

- storage means for storing object words indicative of spots within said spot information memory means (recognized address, Fig. 1, element 110 and column 6, lines 3-9);
- output means for producing a request message (prompt) urging a user to input said object words (Fig. 4, step 401);
- computing means for acquiring similarities between the voice inputted from said voice input means and the object words stored in said storage means (matching, column 5, lines 64-67);
- recognition means for recognizing the voice corresponding to one of the object words from the similarities acquired by said computing means (Fig. 1, element 108 and column 4, lines 13-41);
- wherein when a plurality of object words are recognized (rhyme or sound alike) by said recognition means, a limiting word (address identifier) for distinguishing said plurality of object words sampled from said spot information storage means and stored as the object word (recognized address) in said storage means (column 5, lines 20-29 and column 6, lines 5-9), the limiting word is produced as the request message (prompt) by said output means (prompt) and the object word

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corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as voice
(column 7, lines 10-33).

Regarding claim 3, Brotman *et al.* discloses an apparatus for
speech recognition comprising:

- wherein said spot information memory means stores, as
information relative to spots, a plurality of facility names
and detailed classifying information and rough classifying
information which each facility name belongs which are
correlated with each other (street names, street numbers and
zip codes, Fig. 1, element 109 and column 4, line 31 thru
column 5, line 19).

Regarding claim 4, Brotman *et al.* discloses an apparatus method
for speech recognition comprising:

- wherein when a plurality of object words are recognized (rhyme
or sound alike) by said recognition means, a limiting word
(street name) for distinguishing said plurality of object
words sampled from said spot information storage means and
stored as the object word in said storage means (column 5,
lines 20-29 and column 6, lines 6-7) ,
- and when said plurality of object words distinguished from one
another in terms of rough classifying information (within same
zip code), only one at a higher level of the object words
corresponding to the limiting word (street name) is produced
as a request voice by said output means and the object word.

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corresponding to said limiting word is recognized

(column 5, lines 20-29 and column 6, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 5 and 6, Brotman *et al.* discloses an apparatus for speech recognition comprising:

- wherein said recognition means recognizes an object word with similarity within a prescribed range (street numbers range field), acquired by said computing means, as the recognized object word (column 5, lines 20-29).

Regarding claim 7, Brotman *et al.* discloses a method for speech recognition comprising:

- wherein object words representative of spots are stored from spot information memory means storing information relative to the spots, and similarities between the voice inputted externally and the object words stored to recognize the voice corresponding to one of the object words (recognized address, Fig. 1, element 110 and Fig. 3, step 307 and column 5, line 59 thru column 6, line 9);
- wherein when a plurality of object words are recognized (rhyme or sound alike) by said recognition means, a limiting word (range of street numbers) for distinguishing said plurality of object words sampled from said spot information storage means and stored as the object word in said storage means and the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as voice (column 5, lines 20-29 and column 6, lines 6-7).

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Regarding claim 8, Brotman et al. discloses a method for speech recognition comprising:

- wherein object words representative of spots are stored from spot information memory means storing information relative to the spots, and similarities between the voice inputted externally and the object words stored to recognize the voice corresponding to one of the object words (recognized address, Fig. 1, element 110 and Fig. 3, step 307 and column 5, line 59 thru column 6, line 9);
- wherein when a plurality of object words are recognized (rhyme or sound alike) by said recognition means, a limiting word (street name) for distinguishing said plurality of object words sampled from said spot information storage means and stored as the object word in said storage means (column 5, lines 20-29 and column 6, lines 6-7), the limiting word is produced as the request message (voice prompt) by said output means the object word corresponding to said limiting word is recognized as voice (column 7, lines 10-38).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ishii et al. (USPN 5,956,684) teaches of a speech recognition apparatus and method applied to a navigation apparatus mounted in a car that performs high grade

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operations e.g., displaying road maps, etc., without obstructing the driving of a car.


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald Young whose telephone number is (571) 272-8134. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talivaldis Smits can be reached on (571) 272-7628. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DGY

06/10/2005


TĀLIVALDIS IVARS ŠMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER